

COME DOWN, MARY ELLEN!

Mrs. M. E. Lease got off her old story about her father and brother or two being killed in the Union army during her speech here Friday evening. It has been almost two years since she was known to tell this on the platform. The last time she told it on the stump was two years ago, in a southern Kansas town, when a man arose in the audience and stated that he had worked as a hired man for Mrs. Lease's father back in the 60s, during the civil war, and that he knew her family, for some time, and that her father not only was not killed in the Union army but that he never enlisted in the same, but stayed at home and worked his farm. The hired man also stated she did not have any brothers old enough to enlist in the army at the close of the rebellion. The statement made by the gentleman who called Mrs. Lease down on this matter two years ago was fully substantiated later on by affidavits which were extensively published. She must have been little short of campaign thunder this season if she had to rehash exploded hash of 1867 to interest her hearers. It may do for Georgia, but Kansas people are a little more intelligent, as a rule, even in Atchison. —Atchison Champion, July 10, 1892.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE ATCHISON "CHAMPION."

DEAR SIR:—On last Thursday, July 8, I had the honor to speak in your city, and addressed a great, intelligent audience for more than two hours on the living issues of the day. You have not attempted to deny an argument or controvert a statement made in regard to the political situation, and this is most flattering to the principles which I advocate, and surely indicative of the fast falling powers of the forlorn political party you represent. But evidently feeling in duty bound to say or do something valiant, and with "the ruling passion strong in death," you accuse me of falsehood in regard to my soldier father and brother. I herewith enclose the name, regiment and companies of each, that you may, by writing to the adjutant general, assure yourself of my veracity. My father, Joseph P. Clyens, of Ceres, Allegheny county, N. Y., was a private in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-seventh New York volunteers, enlisted, I think, in May, '62. Was taken prisoner at the second day's battle of the Wilderness, while giving water to Gen. Wadsworth, who lay dying on the field; was taken to Salisbury, N. C., afterwards to Andersonville, Ga., where he starved to death the following August. If you will write to John Holcomb, Annin Creek, McKean county, Pa., (his fellow prisoner) he will tell you of the dying message sent by that well-loved father to his little children in their far away home. He will tell you, too, that while he was yet speaking, the "dead cart" rumbled through the yard, and my father, while yet breathing, was added to the ghastly load and carried away.

My eldest brother, Patrick Henry Clyens, not quite seventeen, enlisted in April, '61, in the famous "Bucktail" regiment of Pennsylvania sharpshooters; he was shot through the heart while charging up the bloody slopes of Fredericksburg on the morning of December 13, '62. If you have any curiosity in regard to him, I can show you the testament stained with his life blood, and a miniature ball taken from the dead boy on the battlefield by a comrade and sent to his mother; also a letter to that mother from his commander, Col. Kane, in which he said, "no braver soldier ever faced death."

My adopted brother, Daniel Green Clyens, in the same regiment and company, enlisted in the same year; he was among the "missing" at the battle of Lookout Mountain. My mother's brother, Col. James Murray, fell for the flag while leading his regiment at the battle of Gettysburg.

Now, sir, you or any soldier can corroborate this statement if true, or refute it if false. If I have had the temerity

to blazon a falsehood to the public, let it be known. I will cheerfully pay all expenses for witnesses and affidavits of those who testify different from above. The truth will bear any amount of investigation. If, on the other hand, you have causelessly and maliciously assailed a soldier's daughter and sister, whose whole life has been a struggle with poverty because of that cruel war, then I call upon every soldier, every G. A. R. veteran, by that solemn obligation which he took "to defend the widows and orphans of his dead comrades," to denounce you as a cowardly falsifier, beneath the contempt of men and women, and unworthy a membership in any political party. Yours for truth,

MARY ELIZABETH LEASE,
Wichita, Kansas.

A MINISTER'S OPINION OF THE POPULIST CANDIDATE.

From the Haven Independent.

I gladly comply with your request to give a few words of personal testimony to the People's party nominee for governor.

I had the pleasure of receiving Mr. L. D. Llewelling and his family into the membership of the Fourth Congregational church of Wichita when I was pastor there. The church was one of the newest and weakest in the city, and nothing but the highest and most unselfish motives could have led him to join us. Since then I have become quite intimate with him and know much of his inner life and the motives that inspire him.

He was born and raised a Quaker, and has in him still a strong vein of the religious fervor of that church. He is never so interested or so eloquent as when dwelling upon the religious phase of the coming reforms, in which he believes the Holy Spirit is leading the minds of men. Indeed he would have entered the ministry long ago had it not been for some theological dogmas which he could not accept. He is a deep student of history and of present economic questions. A real, practical "fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man" is the foundation of his plans for all reforms. He is as far removed as possible from the ranting, demagogic reformer, whose strongest motives are excitement and notoriety.

One proof of the purity of his politics is the fact that he made absolutely no effort whatever for the nomination, and did not even know that his name would be presented until a few days before the convention met.

Llewelling is a poor man, and if he makes a vigorous canvass at his own expense it will about bankrupt him.

As to his position on the great questions of the day, his own speeches are the best witness, and as to the merits of the reforms which his party proposes each must judge for himself.

I wish merely to bear testimony to the personal character of one who is appealing to the suffrage of all the state.

I have known Mr. Llewelling for five years and can testify that he is an educated, pure-minded Christian gentleman, with whom an oath of office will weigh more than any supposed party advantage.

FESTUS FOSTER.
Pastor Congregational church, Haven, Kansas.

Announcement.

The thirteenth annual camp meeting of the First Society of State Spiritualists and Liberals, of Delphos, Kan., will begin August 15, and close the 22d. Good speakers and mediums will be in attendance. For full information address, I. N. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

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